

July 7, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell,

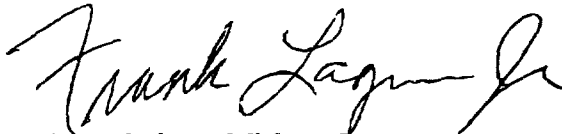
I am writing to ask that the FCC not impose new hidden charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Minorities, low-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have a credit history, bank accounts, or the means to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected – to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends. These cards offer convenience and predictable cost, as there are no hidden fees or charges. In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable to consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it.

Adding access charges to be paid to local telephone companies will substantially increase the per minute charges on pre-paid calls, jeopardizing the benefits Latino and other communities gain from these services. Please stop any effort to raise rates on American consumers and decide that these services are not subject to the exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
Congressperson

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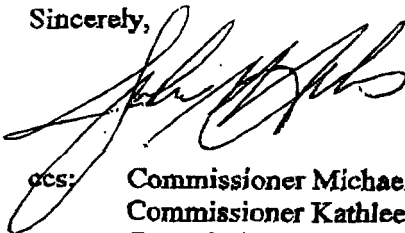
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Chairman Powell:


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The Latino community is particularly sensitive to any price increase for pre-paid calling cards; approximately 43% of Latino households use them. Indeed, half of the households with incomes below \$20,000 have used prepaid cards. Pre-paid calling cards are so prevalent in part because they save consumers money.

With gas and milk prices already holding fixed and low income consumers hostage, we should not be faced with rising telephone service costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend entirely upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. We can use these cards to stay "connected" as we look for jobs, hunt for houses, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest telephone companies would be the largest beneficiaries of such charges. The FCC should stand up for consumer interests over corporate gain by keeping affordable prepaid calling cards a priority.

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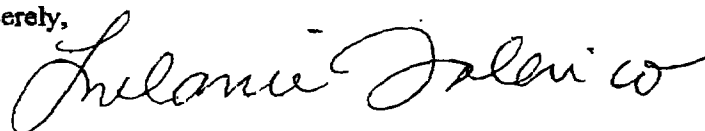
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Texas

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Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
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Sincerely,

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ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
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Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
Congressperson

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*Attorney P.R. 00927*  
ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
Congressperson

*787-758-1091*

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Sincerely,

*Mary Hernandez Texas*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
Congressperson

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Sincerely,

*Carol J. Nappi* 68106

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Chuck Hagel*  
Senator *Ben Nelson*  
Congressperson *Lee Terry (Nebraska)*



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Sincerely,

*Isiris Cespedes* 01610

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Edward Kennedy*  
Senator *John Kerry*  
Congressperson *James McGovern (MA)*

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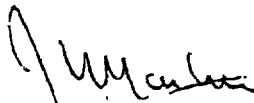
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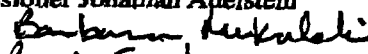
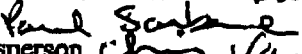

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As a result, prepaid calling cards are the only option available – without them, many consumers could, quite literally, be left without access to telephone service. Raising the price of prepaid calling cards will directly harm individuals who can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices; thus making these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

 20814

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator   
Senator   
Congressperson 

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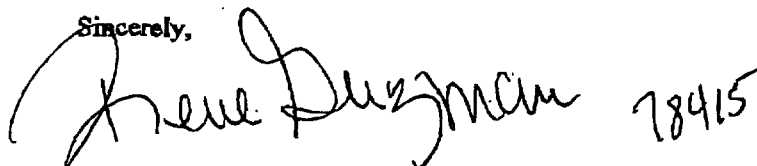
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Renee Duzman", followed by the handwritten number "78415".

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Senator John Cornyn  
Congressperson Solomon Ortiz



July 14, 2004

Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner  
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner  
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner  
Kevin J. Martin, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

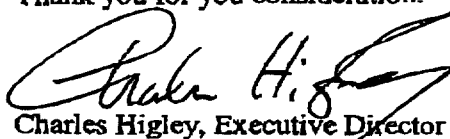
The Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin (CUB) represents and protects the interests of more than 5,000 residential utility consumers in Wisconsin.

Many of our members use pre-paid calling cards. CUB believes that interstate access charges should apply to pre-paid calling card calls, not in-state fees. The FCC should reject the Bell Companies' proposal for adding in-state fees to pre-paid calling cards.

CUB members use pre-paid calling cards to control monthly telephone expenses. Consumers can shop for the best price and monitor the minutes remaining on their card. It's a good way to ensure that telephone costs come in on budget month after month. CUB is concerned that the proposal by the Bell Companies will add hidden charges to what customers pay for pre-paid calling cards. The proposal they've made will add charges that are 20 times higher than the charges now included in the pre-paid card's prices.

The Bells are arguing that pre-paid card calls should be considered in-state calls and taxed the same way. In fact, the calls made with these cards are long-distance calls. They simply call a toll-free number, listen to a message, and then dial the call. Clearly, pre-paid card calls should be assessed only interstate access charges, not the higher in-state access charges.

Thank you for your consideration.

  
Charles Higley, Executive Director

July 7, 2004

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Sincerely,

*Paul Culligan* Texas

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Ray Hutchison*  
Senator *John Cornyn*  
Congressperson

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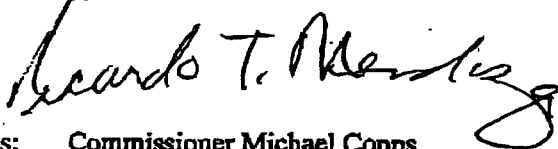
Latino and other minority communities rely upon low-cost telecommunications services to accomplish many every day tasks, from looking for a job or affordable housing to staying in touch with family and friends. But pending before the FCC is a proposal that would introduce new charges and fees upon services upon which we depend, immediately harming millions of Latinos and other consumers nationwide.

I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. Many Latinos, particularly those on fixed incomes or those establishing a credit history, bank accounts and other means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the only option available -- without them, many consumers could, quite literally, be left without access to telephone service. Raising the price of prepaid calling cards will directly harm individuals who can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices; thus making these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

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ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Fierstein*  
Senator *Boxer*  
Congressperson

CA

July 7, 2004

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Sincerely,

*June Cruz Sanchez (TX)*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Kay Bailey Hutchison*  
Senator *John Corbin*  
Congressperson

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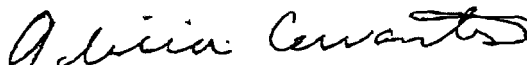
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Senator *Kay Hutchinson*  
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TJX



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Sincerely,

*Gregg A. Guerrero*  
TEXAS.

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Kay Hutchison*  
Senator *John Cornyn*  
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445 12th Street, S.W.  
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RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

Latino and other minority communities rely upon low-cost telecommunications services to accomplish many every day tasks, from looking for a job or affordable housing to staying in touch with family and friends. But pending before the FCC is a proposal that would introduce new charges and fees upon services upon which we depend, immediately harming millions of Latinos and other consumers nationwide.

I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. Many Latinos, particularly those on fixed incomes or those establishing a credit history, bank accounts and other means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the only option available – without them, many consumers could, quite literally, be left without access to telephone service. Raising the price of prepaid calling cards will directly harm individuals who can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices; thus making these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Kay Hutchinson*  
Senator *John Cornyn*  
Congressperson

TEXAS

July 7, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Chairman Powell:

The FCC should not impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

The Latino community is particularly sensitive to any price increase for pre-paid calling cards; approximately 43% of Latino households use them. Indeed, half of the households with incomes below \$20,000 have used prepaid cards. Pre-paid calling cards are so prevalent in part because they save consumers money.

With gas and milk prices already holding fixed and low income consumers hostage, we should not be faced with rising telephone service costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend entirely upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. We can use these cards to stay "connected" as we look for jobs, hunt for houses, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest telephone companies would be the largest beneficiaries of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumer interests over corporate gain by keeping affordable prepaid calling cards a priority.**

Sincerely,

*Mae C. Guerra 78264*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Kay Hutchinson*  
Senator *John Corryn*  
Congressperson

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Sincerely,

*Susana Flores*  
TX

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
Congressperson

July 7, 2004

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RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell,

I am writing to ask that the FCC not impose new hidden charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Minorities, low-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have a credit history, bank accounts, or the means to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected – to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends. These cards offer convenience and predictable cost, as there are no hidden fees or charges. In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable to consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it.

Adding access charges to be paid to local telephone companies will substantially increase the per minute charges on pre-paid calls, jeopardizing the benefits Latino and other communities gain from these services. Please stop any effort to raise rates on American consumers and decide that these services are not subject to the exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
Congressperson

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Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Kay Hutchinson*  
Senator *John Cornyn*  
Congressperson *Charles A. Gonzalez*

*W. Leigh*  
*78201*  
*TX*

July 7, 2004

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*Ofc m/az 78256*

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Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Kay Hutchison*  
Senator *John Corryn*  
Congressperson *Henry Bonilla*

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Sincerely,

*Chris Gentry* TX

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
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Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Kay Bailey Hutchison*  
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*Zenobia Wells* Texas

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Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Kay Bailey Hutchison*  
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